

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, lines 20-21 as follows:

The sensor 420, which is coupled to a circuit 430 and which is provided behind the cutting element 410 relative to the direction A of cutting, is used to determine whether the cutting element 410 properly and completely removed the tape bur 325 during a tape cutting operation. If the sensor 420 detects a tape bur 325 after the cutting operation, the circuit 430 causes the tape cutter 401' to take corrective action. The corrective action can be any action which prevents the wafer 100 with tape bur 325 from being processed by the backgrinder 402. In the exemplary embodiment, the circuit 430 halts the tape cutter 401' and prevents automated movement of the wafer 100 to the backgrinder 402 by transport mechanism 440. Alternatively, the tape cutter 401' could be triggered by sensor 420 and associated circuit 430 to have transport mechanism 440 route improperly trimmed wafers 100 to an alternate location (e.g., a reprocessing area). It is also possible to stop operation of the backgrinder 402 by a signal from circuit 430 when the backgrinder 402 receives a wafer containing a tape bur 325.